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10th July, 1946.

Gentlemen, I have the honour to present my twentieth Annual Report dealing with the health of the inhabitants of Padiham during the year 1945.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Health this report will be an interim report confined to essential or urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year, outbreak of Infectious Diseases, etc.

STATISTICS.

Population:- Estimated Population in 1945 - 8,811
No. of Live Births registered:- Males - 73 (Leg. 58, Illeg. 15)
Females - 84 (Leg. 78, Illeg. 6)
Total - 157

No. of Still Births:- Males - 7, Females - 1. Total - 8.

No. of Deaths of Infants under one year of age: -

Males	-	6	(Leg. 6, Illeg. 0)
Females	-	2	(Leg. 2, Illeg. 0)
Total	-	8.	

No. of Deaths registered:- Males - 69, Females - 86,
Total - 155.

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 live births:-	50
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population:-	17.8
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population:-	17.5

	Mean of 5 years 1940 - 1944.	Year 1944.	Year 1945.	Increase or decrease on 5 years average.	Increase or decrease on previous year.
Live birth-rate.	13.4	16.2	17.8	+ 4.4	+ 1.6
Crude death-rate.	13.6	16.3	17.5	+ 1.9	+ 1.2
Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	0.47	0.56	0.34	- 0.13	- 0.22
Death rate from cancer.	1.96	2.35	2.26	+ 0.30	- 0.09
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	4.35	6.89	Nil	- 4.35	- 6.89
per 1,000 total births.	4.26	6.84	Nil	- 4.26	- 6.84
Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.	65	82	50	- 15	- 32

Causes of Death:-

Cerebro - Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	4
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer and Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	...	20
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	15
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	39
Other diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	10
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	7
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	6
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth	...	...	...	...	...
Injuries	...	...	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	1
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	4
All other causes	...	...	...	...	14

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Unemployment was again a negligent factor due of course to the transfer of men and women to occupations concerned with war activities.

A large number of the Firms and Mills doing essential work are running their own Canteens and these should be encouraged and used more than they are by the workers.

In addition special catering should be adopted for patients suffering from Duodenal Ulcer and Diabetes and so reduce the absenteeism due to sickness from these complaints.

All the schools in the area now provide dinners for the scholars and this also is to be highly commended.

The Health of the Inhabitants has been remarkably good during the year and so far as recreations are concerned, full advantage was taken of all the facilities controlled by the Local Authority and the various Sunday Schools, etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:- The water supply has been good both in quality and quantity. Bacteriologically the water has not been up to the standard one expects from Chlorination and steps were taken to minimise pollution by Fishing and Animals.

3.

The following are the results of the Bacteriological and Chemical Examination carried out on the 18th April, 1945.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in	No. of colonies per
yeastral agar	c.c. of water.
in 3 days at 22° C.	29
in 2 days at 37° C.	1
Probable number of coliform organisms per 100 c.c. of water	- 0

CHEMICAL.

Oxygen Absorbed	0.053	Hardness, Temporary	Nil.
Free and Saline Ammonia.	0.0014	Permanent	4.0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0060	Total ...	4.0
Nitrous Oxygen	Nil.	Reaction, pH	7.0
Nitric Nitrogen	0.05	Action on Lead	0.08
Chlorides	1.13	Metals	Nil.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

No. of premises visited	3,474
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	846
Visits to Factories	20
Visits to Slaughterhouses	4
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	15
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	311
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	12
No. of rooms disinfected after Infectious Diseases..	72
No. of rooms disinfected after Tuberculosis ...	7
No. of articles disinfected by steam	67
No. of drains tested by smoke test or colour test.	24
Preliminary letters and notices sent out	184
Statutory notices served	30
Letters of special requirements	368
Whitewash brushes lent out	221

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ORDER.

This order received special attention during 1945.

The premises suspected of being infested with rats were visited by a workman with a dog and two ferrets.

Rat biscuits were used in places inaccessible to the dog and ferrets.

390 rats were caught during the year.

The treatment of sewers on the lines recommended by the Ministry of Food Infestation Department was commenced in November, the Ministry allowing a grant towards the cost of treatment.

The work proceeded satisfactorily and gave an estimated kill of 1,539 rats.

DISINFESTATION.

7 houses were found to be infested with bugs during the year.

35 rooms were fumigated or sprayed and improvement was reported in all cases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All the activities associated with the inspection and supervision of Food have been closely watched by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

No. of Bakehouses on register, December, 1945 - 22

These premises were regularly inspected and only one contravention was observed. This was as follows:-

Defective bakehouse floor - 1.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following amount of diseased or unsound food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

	C.	Q.	lbs.	oz.
100 Ox Feet - Decomposition	2	2	20	-
200 Sets of Sheep Feet - Decomposition ...	2	-	-	-
Fish - Decomposition		2	14	-
Breakfast Oats - Damaged by water		2	4	-
Butter - Decomposition			1	11
Biscuits - 5 tins - Musty		1	17	-
Milk - 6 tins - Decomposition			4	15
Meat - 21 tins - Decomposition		2	-	-
Fish - 21 tins - Decomposition			13	7
Marmalade - 1 tin - Decomposition			2	-
Beans - 2 tins - Decomposition			1	-
Beetroot - 6 bottles - Decomposition ...			4	8
Total..	6	3	26	9

MEAT REGULATIONS.

No contraventions were noted during the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

15 visits of inspection were made.

2 contraventions were observed:-

Shippon requires limewashing - 2.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1935.

The registrations up to the 31st December, 1945, are as follows:-

1) Cowkeepers in the Urban District retailing milk in the district .	9
2) Cowkeepers outside the district retailing milk in the district .	32
3) Shopkeepers in the district retailing milk	48
4) Purveyors of milk	3
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Total.	92
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES, ETC.

1945 was more or less a normal year apart from an epidemic of Measles which accounted for 191 cases. The type was on the whole mild.

10 cases of Diphtheria were reported. The type was severe and 3 deaths occurred.

It is very regrettable that there are still some parents who refuse to take advantage of the almost 100% protection afforded by immunisation against Diphtheria - even parents who have lost a child from the dread disease.

During the year 69 pre-school children and 21 school children were immunised by me. Of course a good many children were immunised privately by their own Medical Attendants but no actual figures are available.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	45
Diphtheria	10
Measles	191
Whooping Cough	54
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Erysipelas	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Chicken Pox	3

A very adequate supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is available in the district for all Medical Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS.

15 Cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year, 8 Pulmonary and 7 non-Pulmonary. This disease is slowly but surely increasing year by year due in all probability to the effects of the War and rationing of food, etc. and better results can surely be looked forward to now that peace reigns again.

Once again I would like to voice my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his loyal co-operation and services rendered during the year. This is probably the last occasion that I may rely on his expert assistance as he contemplates retiring next year and I would like to wish him good luck in his retirement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. J. FORSYTHE.

Medical Officer of Health.